

CLAIMS

1. A memory device, comprising:

a first variable resistor connected between a first terminal and a third terminal having a resistance which changes in accordance with a polarity of a pulse voltage between
5 the first terminal and the third terminal; and

a second variable resistor connected between the third terminal and a second terminal having a resistance which changes in a direction opposite to a direction of change of the first variable resistor in accordance with a polarity of a pulse voltage between the third terminal and the second terminal.

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2. The memory device according to claim 1, wherein the resistance value of the first variable resistor and the resistance value of the second variable resistor change in accordance with a first potential applied to two of the first terminal, the second terminal and the third terminal and a second potential different from the first potential applied to the
15 other terminal of the first terminal, the second terminal and the third terminal.

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3. The memory device according to claim 2, wherein the first potential is applied with a first pulse voltage at a first time to the two of the first terminal, the second terminal and the third terminal and the second potential is applied with a second pulse
20 voltage at the first time to the other terminal of the first terminal, the second terminal and the third terminal.

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4. The memory device according to claim 3, wherein, at a second time, a third pulse voltage at the second potential is applied to the two of the first terminal, the second
25 terminal and the third terminal and a fourth pulse voltage at the first potential is applied to

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the other terminal of the first terminal, the second terminal and the third terminal.

- 5 5. The memory device of claim 1, wherein resistance value of one of the first variable resistor and the second variable resistor is initialized to a value greater than that of the other variable resistor of the first variable resistor and the second variable resistor.

6. The memory device of claim 1, wherein
the polarity of the pulse voltage applied between the first terminal and the third terminal causes a resistance value of the first variable resistor to increase if the first
10 terminal has a first polarity and to decrease if the first terminal has a second polarity opposite to the first polarity, and

- the polarity of the pulse voltage applied between the third terminal and the second terminal causes a resistance value of the second variable resistor to increase if the third terminal has the first polarity and to decrease if the third terminal has the second polarity.

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7. The memory device of claim 1, wherein a pulse voltage having a second potential is applied to the third terminal with the first and second terminals set at a first potential.

- 20 8. The memory device of claim 7, wherein the first potential is a ground potential, and the second potential is a potential other than the ground potential.

9. The memory device of claim 7, wherein the first potential is a positive potential or a negative potential and the second potential is the negative potential or the positive
25 potential, respectively.

10. The memory device of claim 1, wherein at a first time the first pulse voltage of the first polarity is applied to the first terminal and the third terminal and the second pulse voltage of polarity opposite to the first polarity is applied to the second terminal, and at a second time the second pulse voltage is applied to the third terminal and the second
5 terminal and the first pulse voltage is applied to the first terminal.

11. The memory device of claim 1, wherein a voltage at the third terminal is output with a first potential applied to the first terminal and a second potential applied to the second terminal.

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12. A memory device whose resistance value changes in accordance with a pulse voltage applied thereto, the device comprising:

a plurality of memory cells, each memory cell comprising:

15 a transistor formed on a semiconductor substrate and having a source, a drain and a gate;

an insulating layer formed over the transistor;

a variable resistance layer formed over the insulating layer; and

two electrodes formed on the variable resistance layer,

wherein at least one of the drain and the source of the transistor are electrically
20 connected to the two electrodes.

13. The memory device according to claim 12, wherein each memory cell further comprises:

a conductive layer formed on the insulating layer; and

25 a contact plug electrically connecting the at least one of the drain and the

source of the transistor to the conductive layer.

14. The memory device of claim 12, wherein the variable resistance layer is an oxide with a perovskite structure.

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15. The memory device of claim 14, wherein the oxide with the perovskite structure is a giant magnetoresistance material.

16. The memory device of claim 14, wherein the oxide with the perovskite
10 structure is a high temperature superconducting material.

17. The memory device of claim 12, wherein the variable resistance layer is an oxide with an ilmenite structure.

18. The memory device of claim 17, wherein the oxide with the ilmenite structure
15 is a nonlinear optical material.

19. The memory device of claim 13, wherein the conductive layer is made of one or more materials selected from the group consisting of Pt, Ag, Au, Ir, Ru, Ti, Ta, Al, Cu,
20 RuO₃, RuO₂, SrRuO₃, LaCoO₃, SrCoO₃, LaSrCoO₃, TiN, TiO_x, YBa₂Cu₃O_x, IrO₂, TaSiN and MoN.

20. The memory device of claim 12, wherein each of the two electrodes is made of one or more materials selected from the group consisting of Cu, Al, Ag, Pt, Au, Ir, Ru, Os,
25 Ti and Ta.

21. A memory circuit, comprising:

a first memory block connected between a first node and a second node;

a first block-selecting transistor connected in series with the first memory block
5 between the first node and the second node; and

a second memory block connected between an interconnect node and a third node,
the interconnect node connecting the first memory block and the first block-selecting
transistor to each other,

wherein each of the first and second memory blocks includes a plurality of memory
10 cells connected in series, and

each of the plurality of memory cells includes

a variable resistor connected between a first terminal and a second
terminal and whose resistance value changes in response to a pulse voltage
applied between the first terminal and the second terminal, and

15 a transistor connected in parallel with the variable resistor between
the first terminal and the second terminal.

22. The memory circuit of claim 21, wherein during writing of data,

the first block-selecting transistor is turned ON,

20 a transistor in a first memory cell of each of the plurality of the memory cells of the
first memory block is turned OFF and a transistor in each memory cell other than the first
memory cell of the plurality of memory cells in the first memory block is turned ON, and

a transistor in a second memory cell of each of the plurality of memory cells of the
second memory block is turned OFF and a transistor in each memory cell other than the
25 second memory cell of the plurality of memory cells in the second memory block is turned

ON.

23. The memory circuit according to claim 22, wherein during writing of data, a pulse voltage for increasing a resistance value of a variable resistor included in the first memory cell is applied between the first node and the second node, and a pulse voltage for reducing the resistance value of a variable resistor included in the second memory cell is applied between the first node and the third node.

24. The memory circuit of claim 21, wherein during reading of data, the first block-selecting transistor is turned ON, a transistor in a first memory cell of the plurality of the memory cells of the first memory block is turned OFF and a transistor in each memory cell other than the first memory cell of the plurality of memory cells in the first memory block is turned ON, and a transistor in a second memory cell of the plurality of memory cells of the second memory block is turned OFF and a transistor included in each memory cell other than the second memory cell of the plurality of memory cells in the second memory block is turned ON.

25. The memory circuit according to claim 24, wherein a voltage at the first node is detected with a given voltage applied between the second node and the third node.

26. The memory circuit according to claim 21, wherein each of the plurality of memory cells are arranged in a matrix.

27. A memory circuit, comprising:

a first memory block connected between a first node and a second node;

a first block-selecting transistor connected in series with the first memory block between the first node and the second node;

5 a second memory block connected between the second node and a third node; and

a second block-selecting transistor connected in series with the second memory block between the second node and the third node,

wherein each of the first and second memory blocks includes a plurality of memory cells connected in series, and

10 each of the plurality of memory cells includes

a variable resistor connected between a first terminal and a second terminal and whose resistance value changes in response to a pulse voltage applied between the first terminal and the second terminal, and

a transistor connected in parallel with the variable resistor between
15 the first terminal and the second terminal.

28. The memory circuit of claim 27, wherein during writing of data,

the first block-selecting transistor and the second block-selecting transistor are turned ON,

20 a transistor in first a memory cell of the plurality of memory cells in the first memory block is turned OFF and a transistor in each memory cell other than the first memory cell of the plurality of memory cells in the first memory block is turned ON, and

a transistor in a second memory cell of the plurality of memory cells in the second memory block is turned OFF and a transistor in each memory cell other than the second
25 memory cell of the plurality of memory cells in the second memory block is turned ON.

29. The memory circuit of claim 28, wherein during writing of data, a pulse voltage for increasing the resistance value of a variable resistor included in the first memory cell is applied between the first node and the second node, and a pulse voltage for
5 reducing the resistance value of a variable resistor included in the second memory cell is applied between the second node and the third node.

30. The memory circuit of claim 27, wherein during reading of data,
the first block-selecting transistor and the second block-selecting transistor are
10 turned ON,

a transistor in a first memory cell of the plurality of memory cells in the first memory circuit is turned OFF and a transistor included in each memory cell other than the first memory cell of the plurality of memory cells in the first memory block is turned ON,
and

15 a transistor in a second memory cell of the plurality of memory cells in the second memory circuit is turned OFF and a transistor in each memory cell of the plurality of memory cells other than the second memory cell is turned ON.

31. The memory circuit of claim 30, wherein during reading of data, a voltage
20 at the second node is detected with a given voltage applied between the first node and the third node.

32. A method for writing of data in a variable resistance memory cell having at least three terminals and for resetting the variable resistance memory cell, comprising the
25 steps of:

applying a first potential to two terminals of the at least three terminals of the variable resistance memory cell; and

applying a second potential to a terminal other than the two terminals of the variable resistance memory cell.

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33. The method of claim 32, wherein during data writing, the second potential has a first polarity and during a resetting operation, the second potential has a second polarity opposite of the first polarity.

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34. The method of claim 32, further comprising the steps of:
changing a resistance value of a first variable resistance device of the variable resistance memory cell;

changing a resistance value of a second variable resistance device of the variable resistance memory cell in a direction opposite to that of the first variable resistance memory device.

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35. The method of claim 32, wherein

the step of applying the first potential comprises applying a first pulse of the first potential at a first time, and

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the step of applying the second potential comprises applying a second pulse of the second potential at the first time having a second polarity opposite of a first polarity of the first pulse.

36. The method of claim 35, further comprising the steps of:

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applying a third potential of the second polarity to two terminals of the at

least three terminals of the variable resistance memory cell at a second time; and

applying a fourth potential of the first polarity to a terminal other than the two terminals of the variable resistance memory cell at the second time.

5 37. A method for reading of data in a variable resistance memory cell having at least three terminals, comprising the steps of:

applying a ground voltage to a first terminal of the at least three terminals;

applying a reproducing voltage that is lower than a recording voltage to a second terminal of the at least three terminals;

10 outputting a voltage from a third terminal of the at least three terminals.

38. The method for reading of data according to claim 37, wherein the voltage output has multiple values corresponding to a number of voltage pulses applied in a recording operation.

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39. A memory cell for storing at least one bit of data, comprising:

first variable resistance means for changing resistance in accordance with a polarity of a pulse voltage between a first terminal and a third terminal; and

20 second variable resistance means for changing resistance in a direction opposite to a direction of change of the first variable resistance means in accordance with a polarity of a pulse voltage between a third terminal and the second terminal.